UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: MR. TOLSON

DATE: 6/11/68

FROM: C. D. DE LOACH

1-Mr. DeLoach
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Gale
1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. McGowan

1-Mr. Mohr
1-Mr. Bishop
1-Mr. Sullivan
1-Mr. Trotter
1-Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Legat, [redacted] called from London at 3:15 p. m. this afternoon. Assistant Attorney General Vinson had a press conference this morning at 10:15 a. m. During the conference he praised police cooperation between the FBI, the RCMP and Scotland Yard. He attempted to straighten out the record claiming that he had not interrogated subject Ray but that he had briefly seen him. The papers had previously reported that Vinson had interrogated Ray. Vinson became flustered when he was questioned by the reporters regarding the movements of Ray in several countries. Being unable to answer the questions, he eventually replied "No comment." In answer to questioning, Vinson stated that two sets of extradition papers were being sent to the British Home Office.

Vinson told [redacted] that he had been discussing this case with the Attorney General. Extradition papers are to be placed on a 7:00 p. m. plane from Washington to London. The AG apparently told Vinson there was a delay in forwarding these papers inasmuch as the FBI had had difficulty in locating a witness by the name of Stephens. (Stephens has not been located as yet, however, this is not delaying the filing of the extradition papers.) Vinson told [redacted] that the Department would possibly call upon the FBI to place the extradition papers on the evening plane. I told [redacted] that we had not received such a request.

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Vinson has booked reservations on a flight to depart London on Thursday, 6/13/68, at 2:00 p. m. Vinson has continued his efforts to inspect security measures at Wandsworth Prison. The British Home Secretary's office has informed U. S. Ambassador Bruce that Vinson will not be allowed this privilege. Ambassador Bruce was flatly told that it would be an insult to the British Government for Vinson to inspect security measures at Wandsworth. Vinson has asked the AG to contact Undersecretary of State Katzenbach so that a request can be made through diplomatic channels. [redacted] doubts that Vinson will be allowed to inspect Wandsworth's security measures despite pressure brought on by the American Government.

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Our Paris Legat, [redacted] has completed his investigation in Lisbon, Portugal. Sources in Portugal have sent letters to all banks inquiring if Ray had funds deposited therein or had rented a safe deposit box.

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The results of this check will not be in for several days. Legat [redacted] has no further leads remaining. I told [redacted] to order [redacted] back to Paris so that he could immediately prepare a letterhead memorandum regarding the results of his investigation. This memorandum will first be reviewed by SA Martindale and then will be sent to FBI Headquarters. [redacted] will leave Portugal tomorrow morning, 6/12/68, at 10:45 a. m.

SA Martindale has spent most of his time at Scotland Yard assisting the representatives of our London Office. Investigation thus far by Scotland Yard has shown that subject Ray cannot be placed anywhere in London until the date of May 28, 1968, when he checked into the New Earl's Court Hotel. On June 5, 1968, subject Ray checked into the Pax Hotel and remained there until he checked out to travel to Brussels, Belgium. One source has advised that subject Ray told him he planned to go to Rhodesia.

Subject Ray thus far has not indicated any willingness to reveal anything. Chief Superintendent Butler has advised [redacted] that Ray, en route from the London Airport to Scotland Yard, was advised by Butler that there was reason to believe the subject's name was James Earl Ray. The subject allegedly turned white and did not deny this allegation, however, on the other hand, he did not admit anything.

[redacted] has now put in an official request, through Embassy channels, to interview Ray. The Home Office will make the final decision. Ray must give his permission before such an interview can take place. This request was specifically mentioned to Vinson, who replied, "By all means."

This should not have been done. H

[redacted] still believes that there will be a minimum of three and a half weeks to a maximum of six weeks before extradition can take place. Even after the order of extradition is given, there will be a 15-day waiting period in which subject can make an appeal if he so desires. In the event he does desire to appeal, there will of course be further delay in extradition.

I specifically asked [redacted] what his recommendations were concerning the men from FBI Headquarters who are currently in London. He stated that he was keeping these men busy and that frankly, he felt it would be cheaper in the long run to let them remain in London rather than returning to Washington and then having to go back upon subject's extradition. [redacted] raised the point that there of course was the possibility that subject Ray at any time might indicate he was perfectly willing to be returned to the United States and that he would sign any papers certifying this fact. If this happens, our representatives must be in a position to move fast. Consequently, [redacted] feels that our representatives should remain in London.

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I agree with [redacted] in this recommendation, as does Rosen. We should, however, make a check after the next hearing to be held on June 19, 1968, to see if there still appears to be a maximum of four to six weeks before the subject will be extradited. In this event, consideration might be given to having our Agents return rather than remain in London for an extended period of time.

ACTION:

For record purposes.